

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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**We Worship, We Love, We Serve  
– No Matter What!**

**Ash Wednesday  
February 18, 2026  
7:00pm**

# We Worship

**Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!**

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation  
of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ!*

**You are WELCOME HERE!**

*Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts of praise and gratitude to God, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.*

## **Hymnal Abbreviations**

**WR**—Worship and Rejoice      **NC**—New Century Hymnal

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## **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

- Lenten Soup & Bread Dinners, 6:00pm in Fox Hall, sign up  
Devotionals from *Mary's Way of the Cross*
- Steadfast Love Playlist – Songs for Your Heart

### **\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**One:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you!

### **Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship**

*Lenten Suite*

Paul Tate

### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**One:** Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on God's holy mountain. The day of the Lord is near — a day of shadow and awe.

**All:** Yet even now, says the Lord, we return to You.

**One:** Return to the Lord with all your heart; Rend your hearts and not your garments.

**All:** For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Let us gather, young and old, and humble ourselves before the Lord.

All: Create in us repentant hearts, O God, and receive us as we worship You.

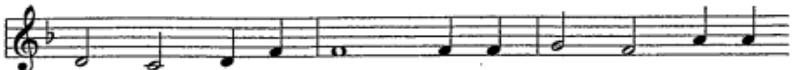
**\*Opening Hymn**

*Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*  
Verses 1 and 2

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes



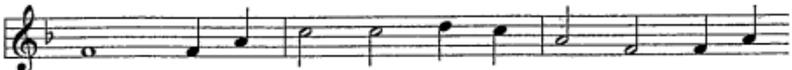
1. \*Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -  
2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -  
3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to



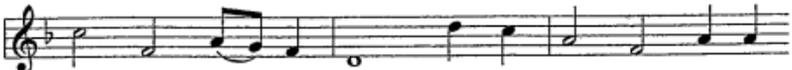
oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our  
fenc - es to for - give; have not lis - tened to their  
proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -



Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our  
trou - bles, nor have cared just how they  
stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner



sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re -  
live; we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing  
greed; we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and



bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re - turn - ing, seek for -  
o - ver - much our things; may the yield - ing of our  
suf - fer - ing we've ig - nored; come and cleanse us, then re -



give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!  
fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.  
store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

*\*The first line of the hymn recalls the custom of burning remaining palm leaves of the previous year to form the ashes for this observance.*

WORDS: Rae E. Whitney  
MUSIC: Atr. to B. F. White

BEACH SPRING  
87.87 D

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**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**All: We believe in one God, creator of all life, maker of past, present and future. Lord of all people and of all memories and hopes.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Word of grace, and love made flesh, who came to declare good news to those in despair, to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor, to proclaim God's mercy as our hope.**

**We believe in God's Holy Spirit, who takes our shattered dreams and makes us whole again, who lifts our dying spirits and gives us courage, who resurrects us to new life.**

**We believe that the Church is of God, will endure to the end of time and calls us into a life of love and service.**

**Prayer of Confession**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**One:** On this first day of Lent we pause, look within, and examine our consciousness. Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion:

**All: Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your steadfast love.**

**One:** Where we have colluded in the oppression of those who become invisible in their suffering, and ignored on the streets:

**All: Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your steadfast love.**

**One:** Where anxiety has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think:

**All: Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your steadfast love.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

# Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Raney

*♩ = 60* *4* **Choir Only**

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The score includes a 'Choir Only' section and an 'ALL' section. The lyrics are: Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Havemer - cy, I pray. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, I pray.

Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e -

10 **ALL**  
- le - i-son Havemer - cy, I pray. Ky-rie e - le - i-son

15  
Ky-rie e - le - i-son Ky-rie e - le - i-son Have mer - cy, have

20  
mer - cy, I pray.

## Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**One:** Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

**All:** **May we turn towards God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## Hymn: WR # 348

*Softly and Tenderly*  
All Verses

## \*Scripture Reading

*Psalms 51: 1-17*  
Scripture Reader: Regi Mohr

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when

you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

### **Steadfast Love: Sustain in Me**

**Anthem**

*Touch Me with Ashes*

Touch me with ashes, teach me Your way. Here in this silence, reach me, I pray. Kneeling before You, Lord, I implore You: Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Grant me Your mercy. Show me Your face. Here in this moment, clothe me in grace. Kneeling before You, Lord, I implore You: Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.

Life is a vapor, a dream fading fast. Only the things of the Spirit will last. We are like dust, with beginning and end, a flower that fades a reed in the wind. Lord, I am weary, weak and alone. Lord, I am listening, speak to my soul. Kneeling before You, Lord, I implore You: Kyrie, kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

# We Love

**Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People**  
(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. Davis &  
Samantha Kistler

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen**

## **Invitation to Lent**

Rev. Davis

**One:** Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. We are now invited in the name of Christ through the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial.

**All:** **Almighty God unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your holy spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

**One:** Almighty God, remind us through these ashes of our dependence on You, and Your devotion to us.

**All:** **May we know the strength of Your Spirit as we seek to follow You; may we know the discipline of Your love as we seek to draw nearer to You; may we know the insight of Your wisdom as we seek to learn of You.**

**As we receive these ashes, may we know the joy of sharing with You in ministry, in suffering, in death and in life. For Your glory and your kingdom's sake.**

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2026.*

#### **We Are an Inclusive Community!**

**In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “Open Communion.”**

**ALL persons are welcome to receive the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.**

**In The UCC, ALL means ALL!**

#### **The Invitation to Receive**

Samantha Kistler

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God.

**All: You formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned from your ways, you did not abandon us to the grave, but spoke through prophets and saints, calling us to return to you with all our hearts. In this holy season of Lent, you remind us that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Yet you also promise that though our sin is great, your mercy is greater still.**

One: And so, with angels and archangels, with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sung Response

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on five staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

One: Holy and gracious God, in your infinite love you made us for yourself. When we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son.

**All: He shared our human nature, walked among the poor and the broken, proclaimed release to the captives, and called sinners to repentance. He fasted in the wilderness, was tempted as we are, yet without sin, and remained obedient to you, even to the cross.**

One: On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

One: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### Sung Response

Christ has died, Christ has risen,  
Christ will come again. Christ has died,  
*rit.*  
Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son. Send your Spirit upon us also, your faithful gathered, who are marked with ashes and mindful of our mortality. Create in us clean hearts, O God.

**All: And renew a right spirit within us.**

One: Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

**All: Make us one body in Christ, that we may serve the world you love until that day when we feast with all your saints at the heavenly banquet.**

One: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men!  
A - men, a - men, a - men!

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Imposition of Ashes and Receiving Holy Communion

*Rev. Davis and Samantha Kistler— Ashes  
Consistory leaders – Holy Communion stations*

*Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the ashes and communion,  
then return to your seat by way of the side aisles.*

*For those with mobility issues, the ashes and elements for communion  
will be brought to you.*

## Communion Hymn

*Mercy O God*

Soloists: Corinna and Jeffrey Purdon

*Please join in singing the Refrain*

### MERCY, O GOD

Francis Patrick O'Brien



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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: We have come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads. In these next forty days and as we walk the road to the crucifixion, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus the**

**Christ's servant-leadership to our world. We ask this in your most holy name. Amen**

## **Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God**



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC!

### **\*Doxology**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
Verse 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**All: Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen**

# **We Serve**

### **\*Sending Hymn: WR # 371**

*Our Father We Have Wandered*  
Verses 1 and 2

### **The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

### **Lenten Playlist**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*  
Keith Green

*(You are free to go when the video in song concludes)*